

Club Captain Annual Report 2019

Tennis Committee Achievements

Over the last 12 months the tennis Committee have worked incredibly hard to run numerous tournaments, social nights and generally make improvements for the benefits of social and team players. I would formally like to thank them for their support and time over the last year.

In particular we have made a number of improvements around Member Communications:

- new weekly what's on email;
- tournament and key dates year planner;
- quarterly Saturday planner;
- improvements to noticeboard layout and sign-posting;
- new more durable court booking sheets (although we can't seem to keep hold of whiteboard pens for very long!).

Whilst the regular newsletter was retired, a bumper end of year edition was compiled.

We have also drafted a member survey to gather feedback from our members on a range of topics. We intend to launch this tonight and let it run until the Handicap Tournament Finals Day.

We also end an end of season meeting with the Captains to gather feedback. As a result of this we introduced a new structure to the Ladies Selection Committee introducing Vice-Captains to supplement Captains to make up the Committee.

We have also acted on Captain Feedback around the Handicap Tournament and brought this forward to the start of the season to minimise disruption to the match schedule. We know these new dates don't work for everyone, so we'll see how it goes this year.

Finally, we have also updated Tournament Rules to make it clearer following feedback during the Open Tournament last year.

Highlights of the year include:

March

Opening Tournament

We held the Marjorie Turner Opening Tournament there was a great turn out and it stopped raining just in time for play. Jill Lockwood and Aidan McWilliams were our winners of the Marjorie Turner trophies. Thanks Sid, his timekeeper, Sue, David and those that baked for putting on a great afternoon.

Senior Success

Proving tennis isn't just a young person's games our seniors in various categories have had a remarkable run in March:

Stuart won the Cheshire Senior Over 45s tournament with his partner from Poynton;

Jim Gibbs and his partner won the over 60s Mixed Doubles at the Cheshire Championships, and Jim was also runner up in the over 65 singles and men's over 65s doubles.

John Harrison and Laura Millington lost in the semi-final of the over 60s Mixed Doubles in 3 sets to an 81-year-old guy and his 71-year-old partner –so they have plenty of years before their time comes!

May

Handicap Tournament

Was very well supported and we had a number of new names on the honours' board this year:

Our Men's Singles Winner

Jack

Runner-up Lewis

Our Ladies Singles Winner

Charlotte

Runner-up Juliette

Our Ladies Handicap Doubles Winners

Kirsty and Sheila

Runners up Olivia and Christine

Our Men's Handicap Doubles Winners

Terry and Aidan

Runners up Iain T and Tom P

Our Mixed Handicap Doubles Winners

Sheila and Dave F

Runners up Maria and Terry

A big thank you to the organisers, the umpires and the bakers for helping us run such a good tournament.

June

Presidents Day

We enjoyed for our annual President's Day Tournament hosted by David Sykes our Club President this month.

34 players from across the club played in the tournament and many more supporters also came down to enjoy the strawberries and ice-cream and the delicious afternoon tea made by our talented Catering Committee and baking volunteers.

This year David introduced a new trophy which will be awarded every year, the winners getting to keep the trophy until next time as well as receiving a replica for them to keep permanently.

Congratulations to all the players and especially to our winners and runners-up.

Ladies winner - Charlotte Sykes

Ladies runner up - Lorraine Clark

Men's winner - Neil Henry

Men's runner up - Colin Reynolds

And the Quality Street Award for effort 'above and beyond' Aidan McWilliams

Also, this month our ladies 1st Team came runners up in the Cheshire Shield
Congratulations to Charlotte, Sara, Becky and Maria for bringing home the plate.

This month we ran 2 social tennis nights with Ben. These were well attended with 23 members attending on each night. There was a good mix of social and team players in attendance and feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Unfortunately, this did not generate the momentum we had hoped for and numbers have since dropped off. Social Tennis numbers have been mixed all year; Saturdays are often popular, but week night numbers vary massively. More and more regular players are now playing during the day and organising their own 4s which might be impacting things, so we are hoping the Member Survey will give us some feedback to help steer our efforts in the upcoming year.

July

Captains Day

This month we enjoyed Captains Day Tournament.

Our winners were Olivia Firth and Joe Garnett, runners up Lorraine Clark and Paul Shawcross. A big thank you to Ben and everyone who helped me organise my first tournament.

GBTW

Also, in July, Great British Tennis Weekend was a tremendous success this year, resulting in: 25 new members (5 adults and 20 juniors).

Big thanks to all the volunteers who helped make it such a successful day.

August

Team Tennis

As the summer team season drew to a close, our 1st team enjoyed good seasons and the Ladies 2nd team achieved an incredible 3rd successive promotion.

Ladies' Teams

Great reasons for the Ladies Teams this summer:

1st team finished 4th in Division 1 which is another great finish for the team
2nd team finished 2nd in Division 4 and get promoted for the 3rd year running
3rd team finished 5th in Division 6 after their first year in this division.

Men's Teams

1st 3rd in Division 1 – highest point finish in this division

2nd 10th in Division 3 and unfortunately will go down into Division 4

3rd 5th in Division 6
4th 7th in Division 7
5th 9th in Division 9

September

We held our Annual Open Tournament. A big thanks to those who organised, umpired and baked. Once again, we saw both familiar and new names on the Honours Board showing the depth of tennis talent in the club.

The Ladies Doubles
Charlotte Sykes & Josie Saville

The Mixed Doubles
Charlotte Sykes & Jack Bell

The Over 50s Singles
Jim Gibbs

The Men's Doubles
Lewis Wilson & Paul Meredith

October

End of Season Awards night

This month we held our Annual End of Season Awards Do.

We recognised team and individual performances and contributions across our Junior Senior teams and once again we also gave out the much coveted Marjories Awards in honour of a very special lady across a range of light-hearted categories.

There was a great turn out for the event, and a big thanks go to the organisers for running the awards, sourcing the prizes, putting on the buffet and to the compare on the night.

December

We held our annual Mulled Wine Tournament and Christmas Jumper Tournament this month. Colin Proctor kindly donated a raft of very generous prizes to celebrate his big birthday so a special thanks goes to him.

Jan-March

Box Leagues

A special thanks to Tony Morse for organising Doubles and Singles Box Leagues throughout the winter this year, they are always popular even if sometimes tricky to organise.

Winter League

Once again, we entered 4 teams for the Winter League and with the season all but over, our teams have once again had a good year, a special mention to the 2nd team who are currently 2nd and waiting to hear if they get promoted.

1st Team - finished 5th in Division 1

2nd Team - finished 2nd in Division 5

3rd Team - finished 7th in Division 8

4th Team - finished 5th in Division 10

Point One

This year we submitted 2 Men's and 2 Women's Teams, once again providing our teams with a chance to play singles and doubles in an alternative competitive environment. Sometimes organising matches is a challenge and notably the Men's Second Team have had some good wins against much stiffer competition.

We had hoped to run a Ladies Day Tournament in lieu of the Ladies Team match, however we had to cancel this due to insufficient numbers.

Overall

The Tennis Committee have had a busy year, it's had its ups and downs but I think on balance we have achieved a lot and I'd like to say a very big thank you to the whole committee who continue to dedicate their time to running such a wide programme of tennis at DLTC.